

BOOK OF MARK

HANDOUT

MARK'S FOCUS ON KINGDOM LIFE

- **Jesus' Example**
 - Meant to inspire humankind toward restoration of God's original order
 - Jesus as Savior lives, dies, & resurrects to break the curse of death by merit of His sinless life
 - Jesus models the methods of spreading the message of the Kingdom following His resurrection
 - Jesus commissions His followers to go to all the world with that message
 - Jesus will confirm that "word" as it was confirmed during His own ministry
 - breaking powers of the curse
 - breaking the chains of demonic works
 - verifying His claim as the Risen Lord
 - Jesus will summon those who hear the message to repentance & life in Him
 - Jesus' disciples continue the mission of restoration & deliverance
 - Jesus' ministry was one of power but was without pride, power seeking, and possessiveness.
- **Personal Passion**
 - Our relationship with the Lord MUST go beyond academic acknowledgement of the Kingdom
 - We must partner with Jesus
- **Kingdom & Spiritual Warfare**
 - Jesus continually confronted & cast out demons and sent His disciples to do the same
 - Invading power of God's Kingdom caused challenges
 - Religious leaders critical – even considered Jesus demonized
 - Many have stopped pursuing & demonstrating the power and fruit of the Kingdom due to disbelief or fear of criticism
 - Price to passionately pursuing Kingdom ministry
 - Be prepared for ministry (Mark 9:29)
 - Obedience (Mark 6:7, 16:17)

- We must never shrink back
 - Jesus’ passion for human liberation & wholeness has never stopped – and He desires to show it through us as we walk in humble obedience
- **Kingdom & Personal Transformation**
 - Entrusting Kingdom power to individuals could only be continuously granted if radical change occurred in His followers.
 - Power corrupts unless we are submitted to Jesus.
 - Stripped of adult pride (which was making the disciples think they were above even talking to children)
 - Freed from preoccupation with the wealth or benefits that “power ministry” might yield
 - As we become more passionate for Jesus alone, the more we are unaffected by His acts of power through us.
 - The more we seek Jesus & are passionate for Him, the more power He showers upon so that we may make Him & His love known to the world.

MARK’S CONTROVERSY STORIES

Chart by Dean Niforatos

Controversy	Reference in Mark
Over Jesus’ right to forgive sins	2:1–12
Over Jesus’ fellowship with tax collectors and “sinners”	2:13–17
Over the disciples’ freedom from fasting	2:18–22
Over the disciples’ picking grain on the Sabbath	2:23–27
Over Jesus’ right to do good on the Sabbath	3:1–6
Over the nature of Jesus’ family	3:20–21, 31–35
Over the source of Jesus’ power to exorcise	3:22–30
Over the disciples’ eating with unwashed hands	7:1–5, 14–23
Over the Pharisees and teachers of the law setting aside the commands of God in order to observe their own tradition	7:6–13
Over the legality of divorce and God’s intention for marriage	10:1–12
Over Jesus’ authority to cleanse the temple and John’s authority to baptize	11:27–33
Over paying taxes to Caesar and giving God His due	12:13–17
Over marriage at the resurrection, the power of God, and the witness of Scripture	12:18–27
Over the most important commandment	12:28–34
Over the nature of the Messiah—son of David or David’s Lord	12:35–37

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JESUS' ORDERS OF SILENCE

- **Three different groupings**
 - Demons/unclean spirits (Mark 1:24; 1:34; 3:12)
 - Recognized Jesus as divine from God
 - Either didn't want that message made known, or didn't want demons being the ones to reveal it – or both
 - Crowds, especially recipients of healing (Mark 1:43; 5:43; 7:33-36; 8:22-26)
 - Attempting to prolong His ability to travel
 - May have been trying to slow down misinformation of Himself (John the Baptist, Elijah, political king)
 - Waiting for proper time of revelation – waiting to reveal who Jesus is and isn't until the right time
 - Disciples (Mark 8:30; 9:9)
 - Jesus has to prepare His disciples for what is to come (crucifixion/resurrection)
 - Disciples don't get it
 - Not a matter of Jesus not revealing Himself, but of the disciples not understanding what He has revealed – so they need to keep quiet until they truly understand
- **What we learn from Jesus' orders of silence**
 - There is a pattern of Jesus' concealing & revealing
 - We may also be prone to not understanding Jesus' revelation
 - Like the crowds, attracted to the wonder-working Jesus but ignore His call to suffer
 - Like the disciples, may want a Christ of our own design but not the One who died for our sins and calls us to obedience
 - Jesus was fully revealed as the Messiah with His death & resurrection; therefore, we can testify openly of what He reveals of Himself – assuming He has not given us a "silence" order